

Message Text

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R 191245Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9032

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4690

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SU ET ZA KE UG

SUBJECT: ETHIO-SUDANESE RELATIONS: THE SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 4647, B. ADDIS ABABA 4638, C. ADDIS ABABA 4561

D. ADDIS ABABA 4555, E. ADDIS ABABA 4440, F. ADDIS ABABA 4317

1. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA ATTACKS ON ARABS OVER LATTER'S SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN INSURGENCY; RECENT ANYANYA SPOKESMAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE HERE; REPORTS THAT DISSIDENT ARMY MAY BE BEING RAISED IN SUDAN FOR USE AGAINST ZAIRE; GATHERING MOMENTUM OF FURTHER EPMG MEASURES TO BREAK ERITREAN IMPASSE (REFTELS) SUGGEST THAT ETHIO-SUDANESE RELATIONS HAVE ENTERED A NEW AND MORE DIFFICULT PHASE.

2. IF, AS WE BELIEVE, ETHIOPIANS ARE INCLINED TO BLAME THEIR PROBLEMS IN ERITREA AT LEAST IN PART UPON WHAT THEY SEE AS EXCESSIVE SUDANESE COOPERATION WITH REBELS, FOR EXAMPLE IN LATTER'S MILITARY LOGISTICS, THEY MAY BE EXPECTED TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO SHARPEN SUCH PROBLEMS AS GOS MAY BE EXPERIENCING IN SOUTH SUDAN. CERTAINLY,
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IF IT IS TRUE (REF. F, PARA 3) THAT SOUTHERN SUDANESE

ARE CROSSING INTO ETHIOPIA IN GROWING NUMBERS, SUCH PROBLEMS MAY ALREADY HAVE BECOME MORE DIFFICULT.

3. EMBASSY INTENDS, THEREFORE, TO DEVOTE GREATER ATTENTION AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO THE SITUATION IN THE GAMBELLA/AKOBO AREA IN AN EFFORT KEEP UP WITH THE ETHIO-SUDANESE SITUATION AS IT DEVELOPS. EMBASSY KHARTOUM MAY WISH TO DO LIKEWISE ON THE SUDANESE SIDE OF THE BORDER.
HUMMEL

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